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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3218

April 10, 2018

Mr. Herbert Bolton
National Program Leader
Institute of Food and Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
3343 Waterfront Centre
800 9th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Mr. Bolton:

I write in support of Dr. Brian Nault and Dr. Shelby Fleischer's application to receive funding through the Crop Protection and Pest Management Program. Their project, "Solutions for managing Allium leafminer: a new invasive threat to Allium crops in North America," is of great interest to my district in New York's Hudson Valley, as our farmers and economy are reliant on the local onion crop.

As you know, the allium leafminer is an invasive species of pest that threatens crops nationwide. The pest destroys plants in the allium family, including: onions, garlic, shallots, and leeks. Collectively these crops account for millions of dollars in economic impact and represent the livelihood of thousands of farmers across the country. In my District alone, an allium leafminer infestation would impact farms that are responsible for hundreds of millions of dollars in local revenue.

Investing in effective management techniques is critical to stopping this problem before it spreads. The Crop Protection and Pest Management Program is the ideal vehicle to do just that. With the support of this program, research efforts led by both Cornell Cooperative Extension and Penn State University can be synergized by the expertise of career vegetable entomologists and cooperative extension educators from both institutions.

I remain committed to finding effective and sustainable solutions to this problem. Given the potential threat these insects pose, an investment in preventing their spread would be money well-spent. I ask that you give your full and fair consideration to this funding request. Thank you in advance for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress